

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218480

14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218480

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJECT: INDIAN DCM CALLS ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY - DURING A CALL ON NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS SEPTEMBER 2, INDIAN EMBASSY DCM VENKATESWARAN COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON U.S. ARMS POLICY IN SOUTH ASIA, INDO-BANGLADESHI RELATIONS AND THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. VENKATESWARAN TOOK THE OCCASION TO CLARIFY THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WOULD BE ARRIVING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 27 FOR THE UNGA AND LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING THE SECRETARY. FIRST SECRETARY RAJAN ACCOMPANIED THE DCM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE INDIAN OFFICIAL NOTED REPORTS SUGGESTING U.S. PLANS TO SHIP ARMS TO PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH AND SAID HE FINDS AN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN SUCH REPORTED SHIPMENTS AND THE PROFESSED TOTAL COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO SOUTH ASIAN STABILITY. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT A REPORT IN AN
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PAGE 02 STATE 218480

AVIATION MAGAZINE THAT THE USG HAD DECIDED TO SEND 110 AIR-

CRAFT TO PAKISTAN. DUBS SAID THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THE AIRCRAFT AND REVIEWED FOR VENKATESWARAN U.S. ARMS POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA, NOTING THAT OUR SALES HAD BEEN MODEST GIVEN PAKISTAN'S DEFENSIVE NEEDS AND THE SUPERIORITY OF THE INDIAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. DUBS ASKED WHY IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE FOR THE INDIANS TO PURCHASE ARMS,

INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, FROM ABROAD BUT IN-APPROPRIATE FOR PAKISTAN OR BANGLADESH TO DO SO.

3. ON BANGLADESH THE INDIAN DCM COMPLAINED DACCA HAS BEEN MAKING "WILD CHARGES" ALLEGING INDIA IS SUPPORTING GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN BANGLADESH. THE DCM CATEGORICALLY DENIED SUCH CHARGES. HE WENT ON THAT THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO BEEN UNREASONABLE ON FARAKKA, AND HAS TRIED TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM AN EARLIER MUJIB-SPONSORED AGREEMENT BY CLAIMING THAT HE DID NOT HAVE BANGLADESHI INTERESTS AT HEART. ACCORDING TO VENKATESWARAN FARAKKA IS A "NATIONAL ISSUE" BUT INDIA HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS IT BILATERALLY IN VIEW OF ITS FRIENDLY FEELINGS TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBOR. VENKATESWARAN DID NOT MENTION THE INSCRIPTION OF FARAKKA ON THE UNGA AGENDA BUT HANDED OVER AN INDIAN PAPER ON THE OVERALL QUESTION. DUBS REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT THE FARAKKA ISSUE WOULD BE SETTLED JUSTLY, PEACEFULLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE HALF-HOUR MEETING DUBS CONVEYED OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE INDIAN RESERVATION AT COLOMBO WHICH REFLECTED AN UNDERSTANDING THAT PUERTO RICO IS AN INTERNAL U.S. MATTER. DUBS ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE POSITION INDIA TOOK AT COLOMBO ON THE KOREAN ISSUE. THE INDIAN DCM OBSERVED IN REPLY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ALSO TOOK "SPECIAL MEASURES" AT COLOMBO ON ISRAEL. VENKATESWARAN EXPLAINED THAT INDIA HAS RESISTED PRESSURE FROM THE ARABS FOR THE OUSTER OF THE ISRAELI CONSULATE AT BOMBAY. KISSINGER

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